



SUNDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2018

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

The Parishes of: Bishop Auckland || Newton Aycliffe & Shildon || Willington
Crook, Tow Law & Wolsingham || Tudhoe || Coundon, Ferryhill & Windlestone

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

31st Sunday of the Year.

I marvel at the students who appear on University Challenge. Their range of knowledge is remarkable and their recall is usually pretty swift. I can feel pleased if I understand the question, let alone have any notion of what the answer might be.

Not being much good on quantum physics or sub-atomic particles doesn't affect my life very much, important though they are. Some folks apparently still think the earth is flat but, likewise, you wouldn't be able to tell that from their behaviour.

But the way we think about other matters affects our outlook seriously. If I have racist views or see nothing wrong in gossiping about others, then my thinking will determine my actions significantly.

It's equally important in how we understand our faith. Today's Gospel story shows Jesus praising the understanding of one of the scribes. This is a man who doesn't just attend to his religious rituals. He thinks. His faith shapes his priorities. He's got the message that loving God and loving people are linked and its more important than offering sacrifices in the temple.

Jesus tells this man that he's got the message - he's not far from the Kingdom of God. We need to hear Jesus saying that to us. Religious practice can sometimes exist alongside an ineffective or very partial love of God and of other people. I'm reminded of an old Snoopy cartoon where Snoopy says "I love the whole world - it's people I can't stand".

Our religious faith is in the first place about loving God and one another - even enemies, Jesus says. What we do by offering sacrifice in the Mass should help and sustain us in how and who we love. When we gather for Mass we celebrate that God loved us so much that he came personally and spent himself to free us from our sins and wrongful ideas. When that outlook really inhabits our mind, is in our blood and our bones, we're not far from the Kingdom of God.

How we think will affect what we do. Otherwise what we do will shape the way we think.

Be a Kingdom thinker. Jesus was and is and we are his followers.



DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

Peru Mission Fundraiser

Come, hear and see what some of our students have built and helped with in the poor Amazon communities of Iquitos in Peru - Joe Plumb from our diocese has done extraordinary work with these communities and many of the former students who have been out to help and had life changing experiences will come to this event. A great social occasion with food, a bar and an up-date presentation from Joe is planned. The quizzes are looking tantalising. Tickets are £10. It's at St John's, 7 pm on Friday 16 November. Come and join us, tickets through the school or see Fr. Dennis. Thank you.

Partnership Penitential Service

Please make a note in your diaries, write it on your hand, wall calendar or stick a note behind the clock - we're having a Penitential Service for yourself and all of our partnership folks this Advent.

It's on **Friday 14 December at 7pm** at All Saints, Ferryhill, led by Fr Tony Cornforth. Partnership priests will be available for individual confessions.

Lourdes Jumbulance Pilgrimage

Come along and see the Jumbulance at St John's School, Bishop Auckland at 7pm on Thursday 15 November. In May 2019 we have the use of the Jumbulance for our Escomb Partnership for a pilgrimage to Lourdes. Do you know someone from our area who is sick or disabled who would love to go to Lourdes? Please let Fr Dennis know. We are also looking for volunteer helpers and nurses. For more information please contact Anne on 07741 552894 or email anne@across.org.uk.